

THE

ADVOCATE

Oct.—Nov. 2009

Why I Come To Work*by John Summer, Case Manager (Ward 7), 450 H Street*

I'm John Summer and as a Case Manager for the Ward 7 Unit at 450 H Street NW, I am responsible for handling multiple cases; attending court hearings; and visiting youth at their homes, schools, and in their communities. As a Case Manager for DYRS, I have a passion for working with youth and view it as a ministry. For the past five years, I have been assisting youth with developing into self-sufficient young adults by providing resources and doubling as a surrogate parent to some. My work at DYRS began at the Home Detention Unit where I constantly provided intensive supervision to the youth. With the trust I have built with my youth, I am proud to say the youth that I work with, even those that I first met five years ago and no longer have a case, are still in touch with me and see me as their mentor. [\[View video*\]](#)

**A Highly Charged Game: Fox5 vs. DYRS Staff & Youth**

Fox 5's Wisdom Martin and his team played a competitive game of basketball against DYRS staff and youth at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. With a highly charged game, Fox 5 looked like they were about to win until DYRS Recreational Specialist, Robert Jordan, took the game into overtime landing a three point shoot one second before the buzzer. The excited crowd of youth and staff cheered hard in hopes of another amazing comeback. With a second overtime about to happen, Fox 5 cut the game short from the free throw line. An entertaining and well deserved game for both staff and youth. Good luck for the next game!

YSC Youth Participate in Fannie Mae's 'Help the Homeless Program'*by Kathy Ashe, Special Assistant and Arthur Linder, DCPS Principal at YSC*

For more than 20 years, Fannie Mae's 'Help the Homeless Program' has brought together caring and committed individuals to work towards ending homelessness in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. This year, the Downtown Cluster of Congregations wanted very much to host a Help the Homeless Education event with our DCPS @ YSC program. Principal Linder thought that this would be a great opportunity to show support by inviting the residents at YSC and some of the adults to walk in the gymnasium during gym time.



Detained girls walk for 'Help the Homeless Program'

Although our students were not able to solicit pledges, they were able to give part of their time for the cause. The major walk will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Throughout the school year we will partner with organizations to keep our students involved with positive activities and ways to give back to others.

DYRS Agency-wide Potluck

On September 17, 2009, DYRS held an agency-wide potluck at Fort Meade, Laurel, MD.

Click on any of the pictures to access the photo album.

City Administrator visits New Beginnings

City Administrator (CA), Neil Albert, visited DYRS' New Beginnings Youth Development Center in October. With a tour of the facility, the Administrator had a first-hand look at how the new facility is helping to rehabilitate DC's youth in a supportive environment. CA Albert also had a chance to tour New Beginning's Maya Angelou Academy and heard directly from the teachers how they work to engage and educate youth with innovative tools, such as the SmartBoard. The visit culminated with a staff meeting where he spoke with DYRS staff and had an open dialogue answering questions or concerns. CA Albert expressed his strong support for the agency's reforms and thanked staff for their hard work.



City Administrator, Neil Albert shakes hands with Youth Development Representative, Yero Umoja

Recognizing DYRS Retirees:

We would like to recognize and thank Ms. Jones and Ms. Masino for their many years of service to the Government of the District of Columbia and to the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Thank you for your valuable contributions!



Ms. Jones—43 years

Barbara Jones began her career with the DC Government at the Forest Haven youth facility in 1966. With the numerous changes in administrations and the closing of Forest Haven, she was transferred to the Oak Hill Youth Center. She spent most of her time working at the Oak Hill Youth Center and four months at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. A dedicated employee, Ms. Jones enjoyed working with the youth at the facility.



Ms. Masino—20 years

Roseann Masino started her career with the DC Government in 1981 at the Forest Haven youth facility and then transferred to the Oak Hill Youth Center in September of 1989. Roseann spent 20 years at the Oak Hill Youth Center and four months at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. In moving to New Beginnings, she was pleased to have an upgraded medication room and enjoyed taking care of the young men in DYRS' care. She felt privileged to take care of their medical needs.

Rollout of the Lead Entities/Service Coalition Initiative

On September 23, 2009, DYRS Director Vincent Schiraldi publicly announced before the DC Council that the selected Lead Entity for Wards 1 through 6 (Region II) is Progressive Life Center, Inc. and the Lead Entity for Wards 7 and 8 is the East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership (Region I). DYRS is very pleased with these selections and the process through which they were chosen. Both organizations are well-respected and invested in the communities that they will be serving, and both have engaged in an inclusive process that has coalesced more than 30 community-based organizations as part of each of their Service Coalitions.



Photo from left to right: Barry Holman, Research and Quality Assurance Manager; Vincent Schiraldi, Director; Linda Harlee-Harper, Program Manager

The Lead Entity/Service Coalition Initiative has been crafted in collaboration with the community, youth and family organizations, and philanthropic communities over the past several years. DYRS partnered with the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and two selected lead community-based organizations with the aim of helping young people who are involved with the juvenile justice system become more productive citizens by building on their strengths in the least restrictive environment consistent with public safety.

Notwithstanding the challenges of this kind of revamping of our community services and supports, DYRS has moved forward to do what is in the best interests of youth in our care and under our supervision consistent with public safety. Our goal is to create the nation's best continuum of care for these youth and families through this neighborhood-based and neighborhood empowering program that emphasizes individual strengths, personal accountability, skill development, positive family interaction and support, and community involvement in the process.



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services